

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Order of Battle in 3 Army Area	DATE DISTR.	21 May 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

BY CABLE
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The 3 Army, whose headquarters are located in Sliven, is composed as follows:
 - a. The 7 Rifle Division, located in Yambol, subordinate units unknown;
 - b. The 5 Rifle Division, located in Ruse, comprising the 19 Regiment, Razgrad, and the 8 Regiment, Dobrich;
 - c. The 3 Rifle Division, located in Burgas, comprising 24 and 27 Regiments, Burgas, and 32 Regiment, Grudova. [redacted] a motor transport regiment, an antiaircraft unit [redacted] and an artillery unit composed of 25 ZIS 75 mm. guns are also subordinate to 3 Rifle Division. 25X1
 - d. The 16 Independent Mountain Rifle Brigade, located in Zvezdets.
2. The 16 Independent Mountain Rifle Brigade, [redacted] is made up of approximately 300 officers and 2500 men. The brigade was formed in early 1951 from 28 Rifle Regiment which then ceased to exist. The designation was taken from 16 Mountain Pack Battalion, which came from Turgovishte and was incorporated in May 1951. Brigade commanding officer is (fnu) Vakev (or Vasev), from Dupnitsa District, a partisan prior to 1944, who attended the General Staff Academy in the USSR. The components of the 16 Independent Mountain Rifle Brigade are as follows:
 - a. The 1 Rifle Battalion, located in Zvezdets, [redacted] comprising 4, 5, and 8 companies;
 - b. The 2 Rifle Battalion, located in Zvezdets, [redacted] comprising 2, 6, and 7 companies; 25X1
 - c. The 3 Rifle Battalion, located in Tsarevo, [redacted] is composed of 50 officers, 10 master sergeants, and 320 men. The commanding officer is [redacted]

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	ARMY	EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
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-2-

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Captain Vulyu Varchev. The 3 Rifle Battalion is composed as follows:

- (1) The 7, 8, and 9 companies;
- (2) A heavy machine gun company;
- (3) A mixed gun battery (75 mm. Krupp Bofors, and 50 mm. Rhinemetall);
- (4) A mixed mortar battery (107 mm. and 82 mm.);
- (5) An antiaircraft platoon (12.5 mm. Degtyarev-Shpagin-Kolesnikov);
- (6) An engineer, communications, and quartermaster platoons; and
- (7) Hospital and veterinary units.

Approximately 80 percent of the heavy vehicles (trucks, ambulances, mobile kitchens, etc.) are on blocks. Approximately 90 percent of the armament is in warehouses.

- d. The 16 Mountain Pack Artillery Battalion (Division), located in Zvezdets, [redacted] is composed of 3 batteries, each with 3 platoons. The unit includes 300 men, 20 Krupp Bofors of 75 mm., 15 mortars of 107 mm., and 200 mules; 25X1
- e. The 3 Heavy Machine Gun and Artillery Battalion, located in Fakiya, [redacted] including approximately 1000 men, is in a position at border fortifications, with guns emplaced. There are 60 Rhinemetall and Krupp Bofors 75 mm. guns, with seven men to a gun, and 90 Schwarzlose 8 mm. heavy machine guns with four men to a gun. There are no horses, or mules; prime movers are used. 25X1
3. In the spring of 1951 all Soviet weapons of the 16 Mountain Brigade were sent to other units in Burgas and Elkhovo in exchange for German weapons. [redacted] a brigade in a wooded mountain area did not need modern weapons as much as other units in more dangerous areas. 25X1

4. [redacted] 25X1

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